

**Rockville Environment Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, November 10, 2009**  
**At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Seth Adams, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Dominique Lorang-Leins, Christine Davidson-McCord and Tolu Odunlami

**Absent:** Steve Cardon, Faith Klareich

**Guests:** Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Jake Marren, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Susan Swift, City of Rockville Community Planning & Development Services

Matt Shanks, City of Rockville Community Planning & Development Services

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting was convened at 7:37 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 13, 2009 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclimation.

**Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles**

*Recruitment* – Environmental Management has completed interviews to fill the vacant environmental specialist position previously held by Nate Wall. A leading candidate has been identified and employment negotiations are underway. Over 50 highly qualified applicants applied for the position which will focus on sustainability, green buildings, energy efficiency and climate change. A start date is expected in December.

*Recycling* – Rockville's current residential recycling rate is 39% of the solid waste wastestream. Mr. Charles provided statistics on the number of tons of recyclables and scrap metal collected, and yard waste composted. We also discussed the difference between the new program and the historic refuse and recycling program. Recycling revenue and costs associated with transporting and processing the materials to the Waste Management facility in ElkrIDGE were discussed. Finally, Mr. Charles discussed the extensive outreach effort implemented prior to rolling out the phased new recycling system across the City.

*Four-City Environment Commission Meeting* – A meeting between the Environmental Commissions of Rockville, Gaithersburg, Annapolis and Bowie will take place at the Bowie City Hall on December 3, 2009. The purpose of this first-of-its-kind meeting is an exchange of ideas, procedures and priorities. Commissioners Dighe, Cardon and Odunlami plan on attending.

## **Chapter 19 - Stormwater Ordinance Rewrite by Heather Gewandter and Jake Marren**

Environmental Management is working diligently on a comprehensive redraft of the City's stormwater management ordinance and regulations pursuant to newly established State requirements adopted in May 2009 under the Maryland Stormwater Act of 2007. The City also has a number of self-initiated enhancements it is pursuing through the redrafting process. Rules promulgated by the Maryland Department of the Environment require all Cities and Counties to revisit and improve their existing law by May 2010. In addition, all communities were to provide a rough draft to MDE by November 2009 – Rockville transmitted its draft to MDE on November 10, 2009.

Staff distributed copies of the draft ordinance and walked Commissioners through it. The draft encourages certain environmental site design practices such as infiltration and reuse over traditional structural collection pipes and treatment ponds. Proposed development will need to be evaluated using a mandatory, three-step process. Redevelopment will be required to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces on-site. Staff expects to introduce the redrafted ordinance for formal public comment at the January 11, 2010 Mayor and Council meeting.

## **Chapter 5 – Green Building Ordinance Status by Susan Swift and Matt Shanks**

The Community Planning and Development Services (CPDS) Department has the lead on developing the City's green building program with Environmental Management in support.

The draft ordinance incorporates the International Code Committee's 2009 recommendations and adds a series of local (more stringent) amendments. Most of the local amendments in Articles 1-7 and 9-13 remain intact. However, the previous draft Articles 8 and 14 have been substantially revised, particularly with respect to the retrofitting of existing buildings. CPDS is concerned that tenant renovations in particular may have difficulty meeting the obligations of the previous public draft ordinance. The new draft is simpler to implement but still makes substantial progress toward the creation of energy efficient homes and work places.

It was resolved that the Commission's Sustainable Design and Energy Committee discuss the new draft further at its meeting on November 24, 2009. The ordinance is scheduled to be released to the public in early January 2010 and be introduced and be the subject of a public hearing before the Mayor and Council on January 28, 2010.

## **Retreat Follow Up**

The Commission identified the following actions that need to be taken:

- Recruit more committee members
- Improve relations with the Mayor and Council
- Assist EMD in the development of the next version of the Sustainability Strategy
- Solicit more environmental award nominations
- Have a stronger presence at both Hometown Holidays and Science Day
- Develop a neighborhood association outreach plan
- Develop more understanding of the City's recycling program and prepare to bring the message of recycling opportunities to the neighborhood associations and area schools
- Consider approaching commercial establishments about recycling opportunities
- Engaging engineering and planning on an audit of the City's environmental permitting programs

## **Filling the Commission Vacancy**

There is a vacancy on the Commission and a need to recruit non-Commissioners for the Committees. David Davis, currently a student representative on the Commission is interested in the vacancy. If the Commission endorsed his candidacy, the vacancy would then move to the student representative. This would change the way we will solicit interest. [Note, since the meeting, Mr. Davis has indicated a preference to remain in his student representative seat.]

## **Committee Reports**

*Sustainable Development and Energy Committee* – No Report

*Watershed Protection Committee* – No Report

*Outreach and Education Committee*

- Committee is moving ahead with the purchase of a table top display. Using pro bono assistance, the Committee expects to complete design in December and have the display in time for use in Rockville Science Day in the spring.
- The Committee is also actively seeking additional Committee members.
- Ideas for Science Day give-a-ways are: seeds, reusable shopping bags, light bulbs, flower bulbs, and beads.

**New Business** – None

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 12, 2010** at **7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.

**Post-Meeting Action Items:**

- Mark will check with the City Clerk to see if there are Commission or Committee applicants on file.
- Mark to verify whether the student representative is in the Commission Charter or is just tradition.
- Jake is to provide links to MDE's stormwater webpage, including the technical design manual.
- Commissioners are to review the drafts of Chapters 5 and 19 and provide City staff with any comments they have.
- CPDS intends to attend the next Sustainable Design and Energy Committee meeting as well as the December Commission meeting to discuss the Green Building ordinance further (see attached redraft).
- The Outreach Committee will get a specific request into Mark Charles to purchase with City funds.